

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 1, 2007, in which the Examiner:

rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,675,643 to Tanner et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection below. Claims 1-12 are currently pending. The current Amendment cancels claim 12, amends claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 11 and adds new claims 13-19, leaving claims 1-11 and 13-19 pending upon entrance of the current Amendment. Claims 1, 8, 10 and 11 are independent claims.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner. An anticipation rejection under § 102 is improper unless a single prior art reference shows or discloses each and every claim recitation.

Applicant's amended claim 1 recites a pressure sensor comprising a housing with a bottom part and a sidewall extending upwardly and forming an opening in an upper surface of the housing, a pressure sensing arrangement, and a membrane covering the opening to provide a substantially closed cavity in the housing, wherein the housing includes a substantially plate-shaped intermediary member attached between the bottom part and the membrane and having an aperture extending therethrough, the aperture forming at least a part of the cavity.

Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 1. For instance, Tanner does not show or disclose a substantially plate-shaped intermediary member attached between the bottom part and the membrane and having an aperture extending therethrough, the aperture forming at least a part of the cavity. Instead, Tanner (in the various pressure sensor embodiments of Figures 8-11) appears to show that a housing (32, 33, 39, 53 [element 32 in Figure 9 is apparently mislabelled, as the Tanner Specification refers to element 33— see col. 9, lines 38-43]) is connected between a holder 7 and a resilient metallic membrane 28. None of the housings 32, 33, 39 or 53 appear to be even remotely plate-shaped.

Thus, Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner is improper for at least this reason, and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 and 9 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner. These claims all depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and include additional recitations thereto. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 2-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner is improper for at least the same reasons stated in connection with claim 1, and should be withdrawn.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner. Applicant's amended claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the previously presented claim 1. Claim 8 recites, in part, a pressure sensor wherein a channel for filling the cavity with a pressure-transmitting medium extends through the housing.

Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 8. For instance, Tanner does not show or disclose a channel for filling the cavity with a pressure-transmitting medium extending through the housing. Tanner apparently does not show or disclose any channel through either housing (32, 33, 39, 53) or holder 7 for filling the spaced defined by those elements with the pressure transmission medium 25.

Thus, Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner is improper for at least this reason, and should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner. Applicant's amended claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the previously presented claims 1 and 9. Applicant's claim 10 recites, in part, a pressure sensor wherein the membrane is attached to a first contact flange of an upper surface of the intermediary member, the first contact flange forming a circumferentially extending elevation of the upper surface, and wherein a

supporting ring is attached to an outer surface of the membrane, the supporting ring having a second contact flange on a lower surface of the supporting ring, the second contact flange being attached to the outer surface of the membrane above the first contact flange, the second contact flange forming a circumferentially extending elevation of the lower surface.

Tanner does show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 10. For instance, Tanner does not show or disclose a supporting ring having a second contact flange on a lower surface of the supporting ring, the second contact flange being attached to an outer surface of a membrane above a first contact flange [on an upper surface of an intermediary member], the second contact flange forming a circumferentially extending elevation of the lower surface. Tanner does not disclose any type of flange forming a circumferentially extending elevation on the lower surface of its element 41, or on any other element attached on an outer surface of its resilient metallic membrane 28.

Thus, Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner is improper for at least this reason, and should be withdrawn.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner. Applicant's amended claim 11 recites a method of making a pressure sensor, the method comprising assembling a bottom part and an intermediary member to form a housing with a cavity defined therein, the cavity having an opening in the upper surface of the housing, and attaching a membrane to the housing to cover the opening, wherein the intermediary member is attached between the bottom part and the membrane and forms at least a part of the cavity, and wherein at least one of the bottom part and the intermediary member is formed in a stamping process.

Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 11. For instance, Tanner does not show or disclose that at least one of a bottom part and an intermediary member is formed in a stamping process. Tanner does not appear to show or disclose anything about how its housing (32, 33, 39, 53) or holder 7 is formed.

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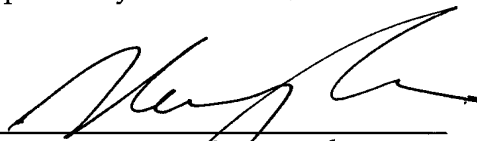
Thus, Tanner does not show or disclose each and every recitation of Applicant's amended claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tanner is improper for at least this reason, and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in the current Amendment constitutes new matter. Amendments to claims 1, 7, 8, 10 and 11 and new claims 13-19 are fully supported by the original disclosure.

Having traversed each and every claim rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-11 be withdrawn, and claims 1-11 and 13-19 be passed to issue.

A check in the amount of \$200.00, the 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(h) fee for one (1) independent claim in excess of three (3), is submitted herewith. Applicant believes no additional fees are required in connection with this Amendment and Response. If any additional fees are deemed necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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